



Thursday March 10, 2022

**MERRIMACK VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**85 RAILROAD AVENUE**

**HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS 01835**

**Board Members Attending:**

Methuen: Kathleen Colwell  
Andover: Jacki Byerley  
Salisbury: James Ryan  
Newburyport: Andrew Levine  
Georgetown: Orlando Pacheco

Haverhill: Allison Heartquist  
North Andover: Andrew Shapiro  
West Newbury: James Blatchford  
Boxford: Matt Coogan  
Groveland: Rebecca Oldham

Ms. Heartquist called this special virtual meeting of the Advisory Board to order at 10:04 a.m.

Mr. Berger reminded the members that at last week's regular meeting, the Board scheduled this special meeting with the agenda of potentially suspending MVRTA's vaccine mandate and, after much discussion, to identify what metrics and triggers would reinstate the vaccine mandate should it be suspended. Kathleen Lambert, working with Jaymie Swarbrick developed that methodology.

Ms. Lambert then explained how she has measured the COVID infection rate for our service area and, using CDC, TSA, FTA, and other guidelines, proposed that the MVRTA vaccine mandate be suspended as long as the infection rate for the service area remains below 5%. Should the infection rate hit 5% or more, the policy would be reinstated. The other metric to consider is that of 25 cases per 100,000 population.

Mr. Berger reminded the members that the vaccine mandate policy was created with a Board vote last September and that any changes to that policy will also require a Board vote.

Ms. Heartquist asked for a motion. Ms. Colwell made a motion to adopt the policy as proposed, Mr. Ryan seconded. Mr. Shapiro suggested that, rather than have the mandate automatically reinstated if the metrics were exceeded, that the Board reconvene to vote on whether to reinstate it, to allow for unforeseen circumstances. After much discussion, Ms. Colwell agreed and amended her motion to include that provision.



Mr. Colwell's revised motion was to suspend the vaccine mandate but if the infection rate reached or exceeded the parameters of 5% or 25/100,000 that the Board must reconvene as soon as is practicable within seven days to consider reinstating the vaccine mandate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shapiro.

Ms. Heartquist called the roll, Vote: Passed unanimously.

Mr. Berger thanked the members and the meeting was adjourned.